

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED  
Current Handling: n/a

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PTQ6843

ELL

PAGE 01 CARACA 01152 01 OF 03 300400Z RELEASED IN FULL  
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	SS-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DRL-02
	G-00	SAS-00	/005W				

-----986B48 300400Z /40

R 291550Z APR 02  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5644  
INFO NSC WASHDC  
CIA WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC  
NSC WASHDC  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 CARACAS 001152

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, VE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 01152 01 OF 03 300400Z  
SUBJECT: CODEL BALLENGER: MEETING WITH GOVERNORS

-----  
SUMMARY  
-----

1. ON APRIL 26, CODEL BALLENGER ATTENDED A DINNER HOSTED IN THEIR HONOR BY THE AMBASSADOR TO WHICH WERE INVITED THE MAYOR OF GREATER CARACAS AND EIGHT STATE GOVERNORS REPRESENTING A BROAD SPECTRUM OF POLITICAL PARTIES (MVR, COPEI, PROYECTO VENEZUELA, MAS, AD, PPT AND CONVERGENCIA.) EACH GUEST WAS REQUESTED TO MAKE A PRESENTATION ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN VENEZUELA. VIEWS FOLLOWED EXPECTED LINES. PRESENTATIONS ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED  
Current Handling: n/a

-----  
CODEL INTRODUCES SELF  
-----

2. REPRESENTATIVE CASS BALLENGER (R/NC) STRESSED HIS COMMITMENT AND THAT OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CODEL (REP. THOMAS DELAHUNT, D/MA AND SEN. LINCOLN CHAFEE, R/RI) TO THE U.S.-VENEZUELAN RELATIONSHIP. PERHAPS THEY SHOULD BE SEEN AS VENEZUELA'S ONLY FRIENDS IN WASHINGTON. AT ANY RATE, DUE TO RECENT EVENTS, THE MEMBERS OF THE CODEL DECIDED TO SEE THE SITUATION IN VENEZUELA FOR THEMSELVES AND SEE IF THERE WAS ANY WAY THEY COULD HELP. SEN. CHAFEE NOTED THAT THE CODEL WOULD BE SEEING A BROAD GROUP OF PEOPLE IN VENEZUELA. WE WERE, HE SAID, HERE TO LISTEN. REP. DELAHUNT SAID VENEZUELAN HAD A HISTORICAL OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CARACA 01152 01 OF 03 300400Z

-----  
DAVID DE LIMA, ANZOATEGUI, MVR  
-----

3. DE LIMA NOTED THE NATURAL RICHES OF HIS STATE OF ANZOATEGUI, WITH 52 PER CENT OF VENEZUELA'S OIL, AND IN CONTRAST THE FACT THAT 80 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION IS POOR, AND THERE ARE 167,000 UNEMPLOYED. THE RATE OF DISEASE IS THAT FOUND IN THE WORLD'S POOREST COUNTRIES. AS FOR THE "DEMOCRACY" EXISTING IN 1989, IT HAD TO BEAR THE "CARACAZO," [1989 RIOTING IN CARACAS], TWO COUP ATTEMPTS IN 1992 AND THE DESTITUTION OF CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ. IN THE CURRENT EVENTS, THE PRESIDENT SURVIVED AN ATTEMPTED COUP. LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE, WE CANNOT FORECAST THAT, BUT WE, AND THE PRESIDENT AND HIS TEAM ALL HAVE A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY FOR BRINING ABOUT RECONCILIATION.

-----  
LUIS LIPPA, APURE, AD  
-----

4. LIPPA TOO DESCRIBED HIS STATE AS HAVING MANY POOR DESPITE ITS RICHES. HE SAID HE HOPED THAT THIS EVENING COULD BE TAKEN AS A COMMITMENT OF GOVERNORS OF DIFFERENT STATES AND PARTIES TO SEEK COMMON SOLUTIONS TO COMMON PROBLEMS. PRESIDENT CHAVEZ NEEDS TO TALK TO THE GOVERNORS. IF HE DOES SO, GOVERNORS WILL RESPOND POSITIVELY AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR STATES.

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Current Handling: n/a

PAGE 04 CARACA 01152 01 OF 03 300400Z

-----  
ENRIQUE MENDOZA, MIRANDA, COPEI  
-----

5. MENDOZA NOTED THAT HIS STATE OF MIRANDA IS SURROUNDED BY CARACAS. HE SAID HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE. NOTHING POSITIVE HAS YET HAPPENED. WHEN YOU HAVE PLANTED THE SEED OF SOCIAL HATE, AS CHAVEZ HAS DONE, IT IS HARD TO DISMANTLE THAT HATE. AS FOR THE EVENTS OF APRIL 11-14, HIS INFORMATION ON THE ROLE OF THE BOLIVARIAN CIRCLES IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S SPOKESPERSONS. THERE IS A CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THE MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION BEING DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT, AND THE ACTIONS OF HIS OPERATIVES. "I BELIEVE THIS FIGHT IS NOT YET FINISHED," MENDOZA SAID, ADDING THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO "GO INTO THE STREET" SO SEE IF THE PROMISED "COURSE CORRECTION" IS SINCERE AND EFFECTIVE. THE FUTURE OF THE NATIONAL ARMED FORCE IS PERHAPS THE MOST IMMEDIATE MAJOR PROBLEM.

-----  
EDUARDO LAPI, YARACUY, CONVERGENCIA

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ6845

PAGE 01 CARACA 01152 02 OF 03 300400Z  
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	SS-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DRL-02
	G-00	SAS-00	/005W				

-----986DC7 300400Z /40

R 291550Z APR 02  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5645  
INFO NSC WASHDC  
CIA WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC  
NSC WASHDC  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED  
Current Handling: n/a

AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 CARACAS 001152

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, VE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 01152 02 OF 03 300400Z  
SUBJECT: CODEL BALLENGER: MEETING WITH GOVERNORS

-----  
6. THE PRESIDENT HAS OFFERED DIALOGUE, LAPI SAID, BUT HE IS THE ONE WHO HAS TO CONVINCE PEOPLE OF THE SINCERITY OF THE OFFER, FOR HE IS THE ONE WHO PLANTED THE SEED OF HATE. ANYONE WHO THINKS THAT THE COUNTRY IS NOW AT PEACE IS DAYDREAMING, LAPI SAID. IF CHAVEZ'S WORDS ARE NOT FOLLOWED BY CONCRETE ACTIONS SHOWING ABILITY TO GOVERN, THEN THE REPLY WOULD AGAIN COME IN THE STREET. AS FOR THE CONSTITUTION, IT COULD NOT JUST BE APPLIED WHEN THAT IS CONVENIENT FOR THE PRESIDENT.

-----  
ANTONIO RODRIGUEZ, VARGAS, PPT  
-----

7. RODRIGUEZ NOTED THAT HIS PARTY WAS ALLIED WITH CHAVEZ'S MVR PARTY. IN VARGAS, WHICH SUFFERED A NATURAL DISASTER IN 1999, ONE CAN SEE SLUMS ALL AROUND THE TOWNS. THE RATIO OF POOR TO MIDDLE CLASS IS 8:2. THIS POVERTY IS THE RESULT OF 40 YEARS OF MISMANAGEMENT PRIOR TO CHAVEZ COMING TO POWER. THIS LED TO THE 1989 CARACAZO, WHICH WAS A SPONTANEOUS EVENT. CHAVEZ SERVES AS A SORT OF CONTAINMENT DAM AGAINST SUCH A THING HAPPENING AGAIN. TO BE SURE, RODRIGUEZ SAID, THE DISCOURSE OF THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN PUGNACIOUS, BUT SO TOO WERE THE OPPOSITION MEDIA. CHAVEZ HAD TRIED TO DO TOO MUCH TOO FAST. BUT THE OPPOSITION SHOULD HAVE SHOWED MORE GOOD WILL, COOPERATING TO BRING ABOUT A FUTURE IN WHICH 80 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION WOULD BE MIDDLE CLASS. AS FOR

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CARACA 01152 02 OF 03 300400Z  
THE EVENTS OF APRIL 11-14, A DEMONSTRATION BY 500,00 MIDDLE CLASS PERSONS PROVIDED THE SUPPORT FOR AN OVERTHROW OF THE GOVERNMENT. THERE WAS NO INDICATION, RODRIGUEZ SAID, THAT CHAVEZ EVER RESIGNED. IN SPITE OF WHAT HAPPENED, WE DO NOT FEEL DEFEATED. TWO MILLION PEOPLE BROUGHT CHAVEZ BACK.

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Current Handling: n/a

DIALOGUE IS BEING OFFERED. "IF IT IS NOT ACCEPTED, I TREMBLE FOR VENEZUELA," RODRIGUEZ SAID.

-----  
HENRIQUE SALAS FEO, CARABOBO, PROYECTO VENEZUELA  
-----

8. WHAT HAPPENED WAS FORESEEABLE AND FORESEEN, SALAS FEO SAID. THE CHAVEZ GOVERNMENT HAD WOUND UP IN A DEAD END, WITH ITS COMBINATION OF VIOLENT LANGUAGE, INABILITY TO GOVERN AND GROWING CORRUPTION. NOW IT IS OFFERING IMPUNITY TO CRIMINALS. ITS SOWING OF HATRED AND CALL FOR VIOLENCE AS SERIOUS AS KOSOVO, [THE CRIMES CONDEMNED AT] NUREMBERG, OR RWANDA. THE RESULT OF ITS ACTION WAS THE MASSACRE OF MIRAFLORES. IF WE MEET WITH THE GOVERNMENT THIS CANNOT JUST BE TO TALK OF WHAT HAPPENED. THE CONSTITUTION IS NOT RESPECTED. DECENTRALIZATION IS FLAGRANTLY VIOLATED. THE RESOURCES OF THE REGIONS DON'T GO TO THE REGIONS. THERE IS NO ACCOUNTABILITY GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES. PARALLEL GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN SET UP. THE NATIONAL ARMED FORCE IS BEING WEAKENED. RESOURCES FOR THE ARMED FORCE ARE BEING SENT DIRECTLY TO THE BOLIVARIAN CIRCLES. THE GOVERNMENT IS SOWING HATRED, CHAOS AND DESTRUCTION.

-----  
ANTONIO ROJAS, BOLIVAR, MVR

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 CARACA 01152 02 OF 03 300400Z  
-----

9. ROJAS SAID THAT THE MARCH ON APRIL 10 WAS A MARCH FOR PEACE, A CALL FOR ORDER AND PEACE IN A DIVIDED SOCIETY, WITH INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL ARMED FORCE, MORE FRACTURED THAN WE HAVE EVER SEEN. CHAVEZ'S SPEECH ON COMING BACK TO POWER WAS HUMBLE. HE ASKED FOR PARDON, AND SHOULD BE LISTENED TO BY ALL. WHATEVER DIFFERENCES THE OPPOSITION MAY HAVE WITH THE GOVERNMENT, WE MUST RESPECT THE CONSTITUTION AS A MEANS OF CONJURING THE SPECTER OF CIVIL WAR.

-----  
DIDALCO BOLIVAR, ARAGUA, MAS  
-----

10. BOLIVAR SAID THAT ALL WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR EVENTS. IT IS NOW NECESSARY FOR THE OPPOSITION TO RESPECT THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRATIC, CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. CHAVEZ HAS ASKED FOR FORGIVENESS AND CALLED FOR DIALOGUE. CONDITIONS CANNOT BE SET FOR DIALOGUE. THE STATES AND THE

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED  
Current Handling: n/a

MUNICIPALITIES SHOULD BE REVITALIZED THROUGH THE COUNCIL OF

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ6846

PAGE 01 CARACA 01152 03 OF 03 300401Z  
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	SS-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DRL-02
	G-00	SAS-00	/005W				

-----986E88 300401Z /40

R 291550Z APR 02  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5646  
INFO NSC WASHDC  
CIA WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC  
NSC WASHDC  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 CARACAS 001152

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, VE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 01152 03 OF 03 300401Z  
SUBJECT: CODEL BALLENGER: MEETING WITH GOVERNORS

GOVERNMENT. THE GOVERNMENT MUST SEE THAT IT CANNOT TAKE  
OVER THE UNION MOVEMENT. WE NEED AN INTERMEDIARY TO  
ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE. WE CANNOT ACT AS IF WE WERE BACK  
BEFORE APRIL 11.

-----  
ALFREDO PENA, GREATER CARACAS, INDEPENDENT  
-----

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

Current Handling: n/a

11. IN LOOKING AT APRIL 11, PENA SAID, WE MUST GO BACK TO WHERE THE STORY BEGINS, WITH THE TWO COUP ATTEMPTS [COMMENT: HIS OWN IN FEBRUARY 1992 AND ANOTHER IN NOVEMBER THAT IDENTIFIED WITH HIS GOALS.] THAT SHOWED HIS LACK OF INTEREST IN AN ELECTORAL SOLUTION. WHEN CHAVEZ WAS ELECTED, THE PEOPLE VOTED FOR CHANGE WITHIN DEMOCRACY, NOT FOR A REVOLUTION. AFTER THREE YEARS OF CHAVEZ, THERE IS THE SAME CORRUPTION AS DURING THE PRECEDING 40 YEARS. 93 PER CENT OF JUDGES ARE PROVISIONAL. THE PRESIDENT OFTEN TALKS OF DIALOGUE. BUT THIS NEVER LEADS ANYWHERE.

12. CODEL BALLENGER REVIEWED THIS MESSAGE BEFORE DEPARTING CARACAS.

SHAPIRO

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED